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dition of Cartagena and of the particular vessel desiring clearance. The fee is three dollars, Colombian currency. The order from Bogota extends to all Colombian ports. Agents of steamship companies in this city do not regard the order with favor, as the bill of health required can be of no use to them in other ports, and merely adds one more item to the official charges in force here.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

CLIFFORD SMYTH,
United States Consul.

Hon. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

Yellow fever at Bocas del Toro.

MOBILE, ALA, *August 23, 1897.*

SIR: Cablegram from Dr. Henry Goldthwaite, medical agent of this board at Bocas del Toro, Republic of Colombia, reports under date of 22d instant: "Isolated case of yellow fever" at said port.

Most respectfully, yours,

T. S. SCALES, M. D.,
Health Officer.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Sanitary report from Colon.

COLON, REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA, *August 14, 1897.*

SIR: I was notified on the 26th of July, by the Hon. J. L. Pearcy, United States consul at Colon, that I had been appointed sanitary inspector, United States Marine-Hospital Service, for the port of Colon. I took the oath of office the same day, and entered upon the discharge of my duties. Previous to this, by request of Consul Pearcy, I had been assisting him, inspecting vessels and disinfecting those which were infected, and procuring for him such information as would be useful to your department.

Perhaps, if you are not already acquainted with the sanitary conditions here, a brief description of Colon will enable you to arrive at a proper understanding.

Colon is situated on a low, flat island, the highest point of elevation being only 7 feet above the level of the sea; consequently, there is little chance for natural drainage, and very little has been done to help nature in this respect. The Panama Railroad Company has done a great deal to improve the sanitation of the part along the beach occupied by the Americans and known as the American colony. The greater part of the island is swampy. During the rainy season, which begins in April and ends about the 1st of January, pools of stagnant water accumulate under and around a large number of the houses. Hogs, goats, and such animals are allowed to roam at will. I believe there is a law to prevent this nuisance, but it is not rigidly enforced.

The Colombian Government has harbor rules and regulations, but they are not effectively enforced. Ships from all parts of the world can come alongside the docks, and may bring contagious and infectious disease.

Quarantine rules and regulations are largely disregarded until ships are at their pier, but when contagious or infectious disease is discovered they are required to haul out into the bay.

In regard to the present outbreak of yellow fever, which commenced about the first of April, having visited Panama and consulted with the